

In re Patent Application of:

WHITE ET AL

Serial No. 10/824,141

Filed: 04/14/2004

REMARKS

Prior to the present amendment, claims 1-28 were pending. By virtue of the foregoing amendments, which include the cancellation of claims 2-4, 21 and 26, claims 1, 5-20, 22-25, 27 and 28 are pending. Reconsideration of this application in light of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The notice of allowable subject matter in claims 4, 6, 7, 10-18, 21, 24, 26 and 27 is gratefully appreciated.

In an effort to bring prosecution to a favorable conclusion, the objected-to claims have been placed in self-contained form, and the specification and claims have been amended, as necessary, to eliminate the informalities noted on pages 2 and 3 of the outstanding Office Action.

More particularly, the mis-identified reference numeral "41" in paragraph [42] of the specification has been changed to reference numerous "51", to properly refer to fiber optic rod 51.

As to the objection in paragraph 3 on page 2 of the Office Action, paragraph [46] of the specification has been amended to provide the antecedent basis alleged to be missing. Withdrawal of the objection to the specification is, accordingly, earnestly solicited.

In response to the objected-to claims, set forth in items 5-11 of pages 2 and 3 of the outstanding Office Action, the following comments are offered.

To obviate the objection to claim 1, the phrase "relay element", has been changed to the term "waveguide". The

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inference drawn in item 6, on page 3, of the Office Action is correct.

A similar change has been made in claim 9, to eliminate the objection thereto.

They typographical errors in claims 19 and 29 have been cancelled.

Finally, claim 28 has been amended to depend upon claim 27, as correctly inferred in paragraph 11, on page 3 of the Office Action.

In order to place the allowable, objected-to claims in self-contained form, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 1, 2, 3 and 4, thereby making claim 4 independent as new claim 1. Claims 2-4, per se, have been cancelled and the dependency of claim 5 has been changed to claim 1.

Claim 10 has been rewritten in self-contained form by incorporating therein claims 1, 2, 3 and 5, upon which claim 10 ultimately depended. As such, it is believed that claim 10 and the claims dependent thereon are in condition for allowance.

Claim 19 has been amended to incorporate objected-to claim 21, thereby making claim 19 and the claims dependent thereon allowable.

Claim 21, per se, has been cancelled.

Finally, claim 25 has been amended to incorporate objected-to claim 26, which, per se, has been cancelled, and

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claims 27 and 28 have been amended to depend upon claim 25.
As such, claims 25, 27 and 28 are believed to be allowable.

In the absence of any outstanding matters, it is respectfully
that the foregoing amendments place the application
in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is,
accordingly, earnestly solicited.

Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of Time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-0484 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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